STEWARD TREMONT.

sended to recruit, after having discharged a part of his cargo, which then amounted to eight hundred barrels of sperm oil As great a rascal as ever trod a ship's deck was this Cummings. During the whole craise he fed his men miserably. allowing each of them but half a cake of hard tread and one thin slice of salt horse at a meal. Sometimes, in a sudden fit of generosity, he would give them a little tea (vulgo dish water) to wash down their The Captain, however, lived like on him right off to the captain. a prince; he had the nicest and most tempting dishes prepared for his own table which he devoured with the greediness of a wolf, and without allowing himself one sympathizing thought for his

three years voyage by a certain ship boy in another such a scrape. The next ficers started back, and the next moment owner of New Bedford, a quaker, whose nobleness and generosity of character has won the love and esteem of whalesmen generally-I mean such of them as are before the mast. The captains and their officers are not included; with but a few exceptions they are generally a vulgar and tyrannical horde of men, who are devoid of all principle and honor, and wholly incapable of appreciating good qualities in another. As I previously remarked, there are few exceptions; but it is my opinion-and I speak from experience they are very scarce. The name of the ship-owner to whom I have alluded it is the way the captain uses his men, when I not necessary to mention; but when I say that he fits out his vessels with an eye to the comfort of the foremast hands, as and I shouldn't be a bit surprised if he it, and accordingly, disguising my voice well as the officers, it will be readily rec- married the gal bimself. ognized by sailor readers and the citizens of New Bedford.

The Tremont had been stocked by him with a plentiful supply of bread, flour and ker then charged Captain Cummings not to put his men on allowance, but to make their condition as comfortable as possible, by freely distributing among them that which he put in the ship for their benefit. The captain promised, but it was the promise of a whaler captain, and the reader has already perceived how he kept it.

Captain Gummings was thirty years of utation of a careful and economical officer. half starve his crew, which he according- the steward might have been he was thwarted by his own steward-a noble-hearted youth, who went by the his burden among the men, who quickly name of Charles Warner. This young carried it down into the forecastle. man secretly conveyed provisions from the eabin to the forecastle every night after claimed Jack, grasping the hand of the the captain had retired. By this and young steward. other acts of kindness, he won the love and esteem of the men forward, any one of whom would have periled life and limb in his cause. It was owing mainly to his influence that they were restrained from breaking out into open mutiny against

The personal appearance of young Warner was as prepossessing as the qual-ities of his mind. With his slight, grace-mate exulting in his own cunning. I ful figure, and dark ringlets curling about | , u peted the steward all plong, he'll have a finely formed head, small feet, and deli- to suffer for what he's done I'll betcate, white hands, he looked anything At last it struck eight bells, and as the but like that which he was—the steward of sentorian lungs of Jack made the air a whale ship.

ed that his men submitted so patiently to seemded into the cabin to call the officer the treatment they received at his hands, who was to relieve him. He awoke the although it of course pleased him that a cond mate, and was just about ascend-they did, and caused him to apply the rod i ig to the deck, when he heard the voice of tyranny with still greater vigor. Hav- of the captain calling to him. He ining gradually sounded his crew, in order santly obeyed the summons, and enterto see how far he might venture, and pering the captain's room found that indiceiving that they offered no resistance, he vidual sitting up "en dishabille," in his continued to keep them on a short bunk. allowance of food, and to kick and thresh such of them as he could with impunity. out anything yet?

Instead, however, of growing thin and Yes, sir. I have, answered the third pale, as he had anticipated, Captain Cunt- mate, in that soft fawning tone, which is ming's was surprised to see his crew sometimes used by an under officer when maintain as sleek and healthy a condition he wishes to creep into the favor of his as though they subsisted on roast chicken. superior. instead of the seanty allowance which it was his pleasure to provide them. Little description of all that Le had seen, with did he suspect that they lived nearly as which the reader is already acquainted. well as himself—that whole baskets of provisions were conveyed nightly from the he had concluded. I will give you a reccabin to the forecastle by the very man ommend when we get into Bedford. in whom he placed too much confidence.

Thus matters went on day after day, and as Captain Commings observed that his erew continued as strong and cheerful ps ever, he began to entertain suspicion

As was previously remarked, the Tremont was within two days' sail of Valparaiso. It was a beautiful moonlight night. and with a good strong breeze directly on her stern, the gallant vessel sped swiftly upon her way. Every rag of canvas, which could be of advantage had been spread to catch a wind which promised to be of long continuance. Studding sails of "All hands on deck." on both sides projected their long booms ows on the water beneath, which changed growled ore of the scamen. with every motion of the vessel. From the ponderous lower sails to the coquettish little royals (a whaler seldom carries sky-sails) arose a cloud of swelling canvas. Nothing can searcely excel the beauty of a vessel going before the wind under all sail-and the Tremont was no exception. She was uncommonly well modeled for a "blubber hunter;" and now as she dashed onward among the moonlit waters, and sent the white foam singing and dancing around her prow, she presented a proud spectacle. The she presented a proud spectacle. The watch, consisting of some ten or twelve men, were lounging fazily about the deck—some of them near the bulwarks and others grouping about the forehatch, engaged in that best of all methods for whiling away the tedium of a watch—spinning yarns. The watch was already more than half out, when Jack Hall, after hav-

CHAT. ing finished a rather "tough yarn," with ble for yourselves! Then turning to his PROSPECTUS which he had been regaling his shipmates, officers, he said—Bring up the—culprit!

The officers darted down into the cabin,

scanty, and by no means palatable allow- the cabin while he's awake, for he'd blow

Jack Hall, energetically, biting a piece to execute the order of their superior, of tobacco from the plug which he took but drawing himself up to his full height, out of his pocket.

No, no, continued Jack, returning the The Tremont had been fitted out for a tobacco to his pocket, you don't catch this time I ship I'll find out what sort of a the pretended steward flung off her hat, man I'm going to sail under.

I don't believe that Cummings has a single good quality in his nature, said one

I don't believe he has, neither, answered Jack I've heard that he's goin' to get married when he goes home to the toward him. I am she-she whom you

How did you find that out? was 'quainted with the gal, and that her

name was Lucretia Manville. If I was Warner I'd tell her all about

got to New Bedford. So he will, I guess, answered Jack :

meat, together with many other articles which would have greatly contributed to the comfort of the erew. The good quadrules aft, where, with his head bowed upon his we arrive at Valparaiso, and hope herebreast, the third mate sat upon the car- after that you will never again trouble me penter's chest, apparently asleep.

But this time the men were mistakenthe officers had received his orders from Valp raise, and was anchored off the the captain and was only feigning sleep. harbor. Lucretia then bade adieu to the Holding on to the spokes of the with one hand, the man at the helm on board a steamer, which finally reached leaned towards the spot where he, (the United States in safety. Captain officer) sat, and peered cautiously into his Cummings shortly afterwards found a age when he came in command of the face, as though to satisfy himself that he Tremont. He wished to acquire the rep- slept Apparently assured by the examination, he then stooped down and tapped let us end with three hearty cheers for and like the generality of his kind, thought the best way to accomplish this was to of him. The next moment the form of ly attempted. We say attempted, because emerging from the cabin with a large the villian did not succeed in his design; basket under his arm. Stealthily and swiftly he glided forward and deposited

> You are a true friend, Warner, young steward.

I have only done my duty, auswered Warner, the men shall not go hungry while I am in the ship. And taking the now empty basket from the hand of one of the seamen, the young man turned back to the cabin as stealthily as he came.

Fine doings, these-fine doings! reckon the captain will be mighty pleased

ring with his "Starboard watch-ahoy!" Captain Cummings frequently wonder- t e third mate sprang to his feet, and de-

Well, said Cummings, have you found

He then proceeded to give a minute

Thank you, sir, answered the sneaking cur, bowing himself out of the room, hat in hand.

So, then, that's the way they manage, muttered Captain Cummings, as soon as that something was wrong, and therefore he had gone, and my own steward, the determined to watch them narrowly. It last man whom I should have suspected, is with the result of this scrutiny that I is at the bottom of it all. Well, he shall am now about to make the reader ac- meet with his deserts. He paused a moment, and then continued through his clenched teeth, Yes, he shall pay dearly for this, I'll flog him within an inch of his

life. The next merning, just as the round red sun lifted his broad disc from the sea, and sent his rosy children dancing over the waters, the slumbering watch of the Tremont were aroused by the shrill hail

What in the ____ name is the matter out from the yards, and cast fantastic shad-

Something's up, said another, or— On deck, here, quick, you d——d beef cating machines! yelled the voice of the captain, at this justant, from the forecas-

In five minutes' time every man was dressed and on deek. All hands were then called aft and ranged on the lee side of the quarter deck. Captain Cum-mings leaned on the capstan, and with a and patrons as complete a stock as is in this fiendish expression of countenance eyed market each man in his turn for a few moments,

officers, he said—Bring up the—sulprit!

The officers darted down into the cabin, and the next moment reappeared with the steward basket. I'm getting lungry.

I don't see what can keep him away so long, said another of the men.

It's on account of that sneaking feilow aft there, he seems wocommon wakeful to night, answered one of the watch, pointing to the third mate, who was walking slowly up and down the quarter-deck, and who, we will inform the reader, usually dozed away half of the four hours of each watch.

Carses light upon him! exclaimed Jack What can have got into his thick head to night, that he don't go to sleep?

One thing's certain—if he keeps awake much longer we won't get no grub.—Warner won't of course venture out of the cabin while he's awake, for he'd blow on him right off to the captain.

Catch me in another whale ship when 1 get clear of this one, will you? exclaimed Jack to the men.

The officers darted down into the cabin, and the next moment reappeared with the steward moment reappeared with the steward battern them, A murmur of surprise broke from the erew, for the face of surprise broke from the erew, for the face of which had hitherto been of an olive cast, was now as white as that of a young girl. The captain started back suddenly, and turned as pale as death, then recovering himself and there there as that of a young girl. The captain started back suddenly, and turned as pale as death, then recovering himself and the town the got the third mate, who was walking as pale as death, then recovering himself and the exclaimed as that of a young girl. The captain started back suddenly, and turned as pale as death, then recovering himself and the face of the steward, as though he could there trace a stariling resemblance to some person he had seen before.

Pshaw! it's only my fancy, he muttered, at length. And then turning to the officers, he exclaimed! Away with him—tie him up in the rigging!

As he spoke, the captain dew a piece of deuble ratin stuff from his pocket.

Boys, let's pitch from In whater Tremont, was within two days' sail of Valparaiso, where a Captain Commungs, her commander, in indicate a commander, in inght, asswered one of the watch, point-

the steward exclaimed:

Hands off! The voice was of a woman ! The ofand a shower of raven curls descended upon her shoulders.

Lucretia Manville! exclaimed Captain Cummings, sinking down upon the steernge hatch.

You are right, said Lucretia advancing supposed was quietly awaiting your turn at New Bedford, and who was once The steward told me. He said that he your destined bride-but who, thank God, is so no longer. Never-never can I give my hand to such a villian! Captain Cummings, I love you no longer, you have forfeited my esteem ferever. They told me in New Bedford that you ill-treated your erew. I wished to be convinced of and appearadce, I succeeded in entering I don't see how she could help takin' this ship as steward, where I have become a likin' to him, at any rate, answered one of the men.

Yes, answered Jack, and—

Look!—the booby's gone to sleep at Look we arrive at Valparaiso, and hope here-

with your presence. On the next day the ship arrived at wheel crew of the Tremont, and took passage grave in the belly of a huge sperm whale on the off shore ground. And now, then the young stoward of the Tremont.



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